

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Braun Industries

#### Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Lean Office Event Frees Up Capacity at Braun Industries

##### Client Profile:

Braun Industries produces quality emergency ambulances and is known in the ambulance industry for its solid body construction and the Braun EZ Glide sliding door. In January 2001, the company moved into a new 300,000 plus square foot facility on 13 acres in Van Wert, Ohio, which will allow for expansion as sales and production requirements continue to grow. Braun Industries employs 84 people.

##### Situation:

As a leading provider of quality service ambulances, Braun Industries had conducted Lean initiatives in the past and successfully completed several Kaizen events on their plant floor operations. Looking to move Lean from the shop floor to the front office, management wanted to address several paperwork issues but didn't have the in-house experience to tackle a Lean Office event alone. After learning more about the Lean User Group at the Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (CAMP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, they sent a cross-functional team to the group training to gain a better understanding of Lean and acquire some hands-on experience.

##### Solution:

Joining several other companies in the Lean User Group, the Braun team received approximately 16 hours of group training on Lean followed by some company-specific project work at the Braun facility. This work included two three-day Lean office events examining process flow for Order Entry, Through Engineering and Design, Through Installation of Harness. Working with Braun's cross-functional team, CAMP consultants developed current-state maps to chart the process flow of each activity. The maps helped identify value-added versus non-value-added processes associated with each activity. From here, the team worked to develop an action register and sort and prioritize projects, placing the project with the shortest payback first on the list of priorities. The Braun team then began implementing many of the new projects.

##### Results:

- \* Freed up 42 days of lead time.
- \* Increased production by 15 new ambulances per year.

##### Testimonial:

"We enjoyed working with CAMP. They were very informed and always willing to help. And our people received a lot of hands-on experience that was very beneficial."

Jeff Farmer, Operations Manager

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